

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

Claims 22-33 (previously cancelled)

Claims 34-39 (cancelled)

6 40. (newly added) A method for producing an immune stimulating composition comprising:
treating bacteria containing peptidoglycan with an acid treatment solution;
removing insoluble components from the solution resulting from said treating;
saving the remaining solution and adjusting the pH to a physiologically acceptable
pH;
testing said solution for immune-stimulating activity; and
obtaining thereby an immune stimulating composition.

41. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 wherein said removal of insoluble components is
by centrifugation.

42. (newly added) The method of Claim 41 wherein said centrifugation is at 10,000xg for
about 20 minutes.

43. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 further comprising heating at about 100°C
during said acid treatment.

44. (newly added) The method of Claim 43 wherein said heating is for about 2 hours.

45. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 wherein said acid is selected from the group
consisting of acetic acid, hydrochloric acid, and sulfuric acid.

46. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 wherein said acid is acetic acid.

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47. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 wherein said bacteria containing peptidoglycan is *Lactobacillus*.

48. (newly added) The method of Claim 47 wherein said bacteria is *L. fermentum*.

49. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 further comprising ultrafiltration of said remaining solution.

50. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 further comprising removing the lipids from said remaining solution.

51. (newly added) The method of Claim 50 wherein said lipids are removed with chloroform.

6 52. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 further comprising trichloroacetic acid precipitation of said remaining solution.

53. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 further comprising lyophilization of said remaining solution.

54. (newly added) The method of Claim 40 wherein said acid treatment is at a final pH of about 2.0.

55. (newly added) The method of claim 40 wherein said composition has a final pH of about 1.5.

56. (newly added) The method of claim 40 wherein said composition has a final pH of about 2.5.

57. (newly added) The method of claim 40 wherein said composition has a final pH of about 3.0.

58. (newly added) The method of claim 40 wherein said composition has a final pH of about 5.3.

59. (newly added) The method of Claim 40, wherein said testing is performed by measuring at least one of the parameters selected from the group consisting of: lymphocyte proliferation, cytokine production, and dendritic cell maturation.

60. (newly added) A method for producing an immune stimulating composition comprising:
treating bacteria containing peptidoglycan with an acid treatment solution having a pH less than 5.3;
removing insoluble components from the solution resulting from said treating;
saving the remaining solution and adjusting the pH to a physiologically acceptable pH; and
obtaining thereby an immune stimulating composition.

61. (newly added) A method for producing a peptidoglycan extract from bacteria comprising:
heating a Gram positive bacteria in a solution comprising water and acid,
wherein said solution is free of added raffinose and added enzymes;
removing insoluble particles from the solution resulting from said heating; and
adjusting the pH of the remaining solution to about 7.0 obtaining thereby an immune stimulating composition.

62. (newly added) The method of claim 55 wherein said heating is at a final pH of about 2.0.

63. (newly added) The method of Claim 55 wherein said Gram positive bacteria is Lactobacillus.

64. (newly added) The method of Claim 55 further comprising removing lipids from said remaining solution.

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65. (newly added) The method of Claim 55 further comprising ultrafiltration from said remaining solution.

66. (newly added) The method of Claim 55 further comprising trichloroacetic acid precipitation from said remaining solution.
